



Mark Gordon, *Governor*
Doug Miyamoto, *Director*
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The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources and quality of life.

May 13, 2021

Mark Wieringa
Western Area Power Administration
Headquarters Office A9402
PO BOX 281213
Lakewood, CO 80228-8213
RailTieWind@wapa.gov

Dear Mr. Wieringa,

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the Rail Tie Wind Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Our comments are specific to our mission within state government: dedication to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As this project impacts our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, we believe it is important you continue to inform us of proposed actions and decisions and continue to provide us the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

We support private landowner rights and responsible wind energy development that empowers private landowners to develop and implement renewable energy in ways to sustain their agriculture operations and way of life. The EIS has analyzed the potential impacts on current agriculture operations in the project area. We encourage the project proponents to work closely with the private landowners in the area on vegetation reclamation in order to select the best possible seed mixes benefiting the landowners and their operations. In addition to reclamation, we recommend the proponent work with landowners to monitor and eradicate invasive and undesirable weeds in the project area.

In conclusion, thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Scott McDonald, Policy Analyst, scott.mcdonald@wyo.gov or 307-777-7024.

Sincerely,

Doug Miyamoto
Director

DM/sm

CC: Governor's Policy Office
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Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts

Wyoming Game and Fish Department
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